



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Lahontan Region



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, California 96150
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www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

June 11, 2008

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND AGENCIES:

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF EARLY CONSULTATION WITH RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES
AND CONCURRENT REQUEST FOR EARLY PUBLIC COMMENT FOR TWO
PROPOSED PROJECTS BY THE LAHONTAN WATER BOARD**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Lahontan Water Board), is commencing a 30-day consultation with all responsible and trustee agencies prior to determining whether negative declaration(s) or environmental impact report(s) are required for the two projects listed below. Concurrent with this 30-day interagency consultation, the Lahontan Water Board is also requesting the public provide comments regarding these two projects. We are asking you to identify issues to be considered and potential environmental effects of the two proposed projects.

PROJECT 1: Proposed Revision of Conditional Waiver Related to Timber Harvest and Vegetation Management Activities in the Lahontan Region.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Revise the existing Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Timber Harvest and Vegetation Management Activities in the Lahontan Region (Timber Waiver). Changes to the Timber Waiver will be minor (i.e. grammar) and substantial (i.e. reduction of monitoring and reporting requirements).

PROJECT LOCATION: The Lahontan Region, which is defined by Water Code section 13200, subdivision (h). Includes all or portions of Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Alpine, Mono, Inyo, San Bernardino, Kern, and Los Angeles counties

PROJECT 2: Proposed Adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding for Vegetation Management Activities in the Lake Tahoe Region between the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Lahontan Water Board. Identification of a Single Environmental Protection Permitting Entity for Vegetation Management Activities in the Lake Tahoe Region.

California Environmental Protection Agency

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Adopt a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency regarding the regulation of vegetation management activities within the Lake Tahoe Region. One provision of the MOU will be to designate the TRPA as the lead regulatory and permitting agency for vegetation management activities in the Lake Tahoe Region.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Lake Tahoe Region of California, including portions of El Dorado and Placer Counties. The "Lake Tahoe Region" is defined by Public Law 96-551, and includes lands in El Dorado and Placer Counties which are tributary to Lake Tahoe. It does not include the Alpine County portion of the Lake Tahoe watershed, but does include part of the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit, between the Lake Tahoe outlet dam and the Bear Creek confluence.

Copies of the early consultation documents are available for public review at the Lahontan Water Board's web site:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/waste_discharge_requirements/timber_harvest/index.shtml, or will be mailed upon request. To request copies of the early consultation documents or for more information, please contact Andrea Stanley with the Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Unit, at (530) 542-5406 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm at 2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151, or by email at astanley@waterboards.ca.gov.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

The Lahontan Water Board is interested in your input. An agency and public workshop will be held during this consultation and initial comment period on **June 30, 2008 at 2:00 pm**. This workshop will be hosted by Lahontan Water Board staff and a subcommittee of two Board Members of the Lahontan Water Board. The workshop will be held at the Board Room, Room L104 (across the hall from the College Library), at:

Lake Tahoe Community College
One College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

The meeting room is accessible to people with disabilities. If you have special accommodations or language needs, please contact Laurie Applegate at least 5 days prior to the meeting date at (530) 542-5400 or LApplegate@waterboards.ca.gov. TTY/TDD/Speech-to-Speech users may dial 7-1-1 for the California Relay Service.

Please submit all written comments by July 11, 2008, to:

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region
Attn: Andrea Stanley
2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151

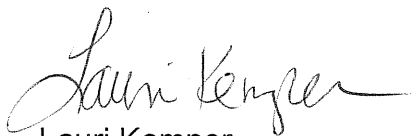
Or by email to Andrea Stanley at astanley@waterboards.ca.gov, with the subject title "Comments for Early Consultation."

If you are receiving this notice by mail, you have been identified as a potentially interested party or person. Potentially interested parties and persons were compiled based on (1) participation in past CEQA review of Lahontan Water Board projects regarding timber harvest and vegetation management, (2) Registered Professional Foresters who have submitted Timber Waiver Certification Applications under the existing Timber Waiver in the past three years, (3) persons or parties who expressed interest in the United States Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, South Shore Fuel Reduction Project, (4) persons or parties who were listed as interested parties and who asked to participate in the California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission discussions, and/or (5) identified responsible and trustee agencies.

If you are not an interested party or person and would like to be removed from our list please contact Andrea Stanley at (530) 542-5406, or email at astanley@waterboards.ca.gov.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT:

At the conclusion of this early consultation period Lahontan Water Board staff will complete Initial Studies for both projects and issue a Notice of Availability to begin a 30-day public comment period. A draft revised Timber Waiver, draft Vegetation Management MOU, and draft CEQA document will be made available for review during this second comment period. At the conclusion of this 30-day comment period Lahontan Water Board staff will respond to comments and make necessary revisions to the documents. These responses and revised documents will be made available for public and agency review in mid-September 2008, prior to review and consideration for a determination and adoption by the Lahontan Water Board at the October 7-8, 2008, Board Meeting.



Lauri Kemper,
Division Manager
North Lahontan Watersheds Division